

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 IO-14 EB-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 COME-00 SIL-01 LAB-06

TRSE-00 CU-04 DRC-01 /157 W
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R 181030Z JUN 74

FM AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1701

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EUID, ETRD, NS

SUBJECT: EEC REVERSE PREFERENCES

REF: PARAMARIBO 285

1. IN RECENT CONVERSATION WITH CONSULATE GENERAL OFFICERS, CONTROLLER OF THE EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND IN SURINAM JOSEPH DE MAN STATED OPINION THAT RELATIVELY PRIVELEGED POSITION OF EEC MANUFACTURERS AND SUPPLIERS IN SURINAM MARKET, SECURED BY REVERSE PREFERENCES SPELLED OUT IN SURINAM'S AGREEMENT OF ASSOCIATION WITH THE EEC, MAY BE INCREASINGLY VULNERABLE.

2. DE MAN SAID THE EEC ATTITUDE TOWARD REVERSE PREFERENCES HAD RELAXED SOMEWHAT, WITH THE DUTCH, GERMANS AND NOW THE BRITISH FAVORABLE TO FREER TRADE WITH ASSOCIATED STATES. MORE RELAXED ATTITUDE SHOULD BE REFLECTED IN ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT PRESENTLY BEING NEGOTIATED WITH MAINLY AFRICAN GROUP OF COUNTRIES. EEC WILL PROBABLY BE SATISFIED WITH SOME VAGUE NON-BINDING TERMINOLOGY ON REVERSE PREFERENCES, ACCORDING TO DE MAN. HE EXPECTED THAT SURINAM WOULD ACCEDE TO THIS AGREEMENT AFTER INDEPENDENCE AND THUS HAVE OPTION OF GRANTING OR NOT GRANTING REVERSE PREFERENCES TO EEC AFTER

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3. IF DE MAN'S EXPECTATIONS ON WORDING OF THE AGREEMENT ARE FULFILLED, INITIATIVE ON REVERSE PREFERENCES WILL LIE WITH GOS, HE SAID.

4. IN LIGHT OF OPPORTUNITY THUS PRESENTED TO ELIMINATE EEC'S PRIVELEGED POSITION AND TO IMPROVE POSITION OF U.S. SUPPLIERS IN SURINAM MARKET, CONSUL GENERAL TOOK OCCASION OF JUNE 12 MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER ARRON TO INFORM HIM OF THIS POSSIBLE SHIFT IN EEC TARIFF POLICY SO THAT THE GOS MIGHT BE ALERT TO OPPORTUNITIES TO BROADEN ITS ACCESS TO FOREIGN SUPPLIERS. THE CG ALSO REITERATED U.S. HOPE THAT GOS WILL PURSUE POLICY OF FREE TRADE AND TO SUGGEST THAT GOS NOT LOSE ANY OPPORTUNITY TO REMOVE EXISTING OBSTACLES TO FREE TRADE, SUCH AS EEC REVERSE PREFERENCES. FURTHER DETAILS OF ARRON CONVERSATION REPORTED REFTEL.
JOHNSTON

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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